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Listing of Claims

Please amend claims 14, 15, and 32 as follows:

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A non-fretted stringed instrument with non-traditional nut, comprising:

- (a) a fingerboard having a longitudinal axis, and
- (b) a nut positioned non-perpendicular to said axis, ~~at an angle predetermined by the preference of a person playing said instrument,~~

whereby said nut alters the traditional fingerboard topology close to said nut in accordance with the preference of said person playing said instrument.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A non-fretted stringed instrument with non-traditional bridge, comprising:

- (a) a fingerboard having a longitudinal axis, and
- (b) a bridge positioned non-perpendicular to said axis, ~~at an angle predetermined by the preference of a person playing said instrument,~~

whereby said bridge alters the traditional fingerboard topology close to said bridge in accordance with the preference of said person playing said instrument.

32. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A stringed instrument with non-traditional nut-bridge orientation, comprising:

- (a) a fingerboard having a longitudinal axis,

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(b) a nut positioned non-perpendicular to said axis, ~~at an angle predetermined by the preference of the person playing said instrument, and~~

(c) a bridge positioned parallel to said nut,

whereby the non-traditional orientation of said nut and said bridge alters the traditional fingerboard topology ~~in accordance with the preference of said person playing said instrument.~~